

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 3, 20, 22, 24-26 and 29 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

The following claim listing replaces all previous claim listings:

1. (currently amended) A lens molding die which comprises:

a base member made of a hard material and having one surface of a predetermined shape; and

a resin-molded surface layer formed on said one surface of the base member and having a surface shape corresponding to a predetermined shape of one surface of a lens to be produced, wherein:

said surface shape of said resin-molded surface layer ~~conforming to but not identical~~ is uninterrupted and conforms to said predetermined shape of said base member;

said resin-molded surface layer is inactive with a material to be molded by said lens molding die;

a curvature of said surface shape of said resin-molded surface layer is different from a curvature of said predetermined shape of said base member; and

a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is less than a thickness of said base member.

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2. (original) The lens molding die according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined shape of said one surface of the base member is spherical while the surface shape of the resin-molded surface layer is aspheric.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The lens molding die according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein said surface layer is made of a thermosetting resin material.

5. (currently amended) The lens molding die according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein said surface layer is made of a ultraviolet-curable resin material.

6-20. (canceled)

21.(currently amended) A lens molding die comprising:

a base member having a surface configuration; and

a resin-molded surface layer on said surface of said base member and having a surface layer surface configuration corresponding to a shape of a surface of a lens to be produced, wherein:

said surface layer surface configuration is uninterrupted and conforms ~~but is not identical~~ to said base member surface configuration;

a curvature of said surface layer surface configuration does not correspond to a curvature of said base member surface configuration; and

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a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is less than a thickness of said base member.

22. (canceled).

23. (currently amended) A lens molding die comprising:

a base member having a spherical surface; and

a resin-molded surface layer on said spherical surface and having an aspherical surface configuration corresponding to a shape of a surface of a lens to be produced,
wherein:

said aspherical surface of said resin-molded surface layer ~~conforming but not identical~~
is uninterrupted and conforms to said spherical surface of said base member;

a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is configured to vary only in accordance with the aspheric component of said resin-molded surface layer; and

a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is less than a thickness of said base member.

24-26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) The lens molding die according to claim 2, wherein a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is configured to vary only in accordance with the aspheric component of said resin-molded surface layer.

28. (previously presented) The lens molding die according to claim 21, wherein:

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said surface layer surface configuration of said resin-molded surface layer is aspheric;

said base member surface configuration is spherical; and

a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is configured to vary only in accordance with the aspheric component of the resin-molded surface layer.

29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) The lens molding die according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer ranges from ~~approximately~~ 0.2 mm to ~~approximately~~ 0.5 mm.

31. (currently amended) The lens molding die according to claim 21, wherein a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer ranges from ~~approximately~~ 0.2 mm to ~~approximately~~ 0.5 mm.

32. (currently amended) The lens molding die according to claim 23, wherein a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer ranges from ~~approximately~~ 0.2 mm to ~~approximately~~ 0.5 mm.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Applicant extends appreciation to the interview for the telephonic discussion of December 19, 2003, with Applicant's representative, Attorney William Boshnick. During this discussion, Attorney Boshnick read a proposed amendment to claim 1, which recited that the surface shape of the resin-molded surface layer is uninterrupted. The Examiner indicated that while this proposed amendment appeared to overcome the references of record, a new search would need to be conducted before agreeing to allow the application. Applicant notes that the amendments to independent claims 1, 21 and 23 all recite the above-noted "uninterrupted" feature.